

In mid-February 1951 he was captured and held POW for 938 days. All the while the US Army had him declared KIA without a body. Over and over again he was isolated and beaten and put in solitary confinement for defying them.

The last to cross the bridge of no return, officially repatriated on 6 September 1953 two days after they closed down the POW reception station from operation "Big Switch."

At 5'10" and only 89 lbs. he was truly at death's door. Arrested, as he was not on any POW rosters, Paul was taken to Tokyo for interrogation, he proved himself and was recognized by Officers.

He went to school with other POW's having stood up against the torture and indoctrination of the Red Chinese and North Korean communist propaganda.

He was released, transferred stateside and spent more than six months at Letterman Army Hospital as a patient recuperating. He was then assigned as an assistant professor of military science in a ROTC program at the University of San Francisco.

While in this position, 1st Lt. O'Dowd was decorated by Major General William F. Dean with the Bronze Star for his meritorious achievements and conduct while a prisoner of war. Very rarely are POWs decorated for their actions while a prisoner.

On the Speakers Bureau; Paul would speak to groups about the brainwashing that occurred in the communists POW camps.

During the Cold War Captain O'Dowd was stationed in Germany for three and a half years as a Nuclear Weapons Employment Officer, working in an Honest John Missile Battalion and later with a 280mm Gun Battalion.

He also spent three years as an advisor to the Chinese National Army on the island of Taiwan. (MAAG) While in Taiwan in 1966, Major O'Dowd also received an award from the Republic of China for "Good Man of Good Deeds," the highest honor in that country.

He stopped and rescued victims trapped in a burning building without considering his own safety and assisted in putting out the fire.

LTC O'Dowd received many medals and commendations for his military and civilian service; some are: two Bronze Stars with V device for Valor, a Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal (Korea), The Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and The Legion of Merit. Chinese: Good Man of Good Deeds.

Teacher and educator, a scholar, a soldier, a good representative of the American way of life, and a family man; Paul was the real deal, a straight shooter and a True American Hero.

Having lived a long life, most of it in service to our country, to his fellow service members, and veterans, Paul O'Dowd died July 27, 2015 in his home in California at the age of 90.

The Defense Attaché: RADM Yang from the Republic of China (Taiwan) will present Paul at the funeral the Medal of Army Brilliance, A Class, signed by their Minister of National Defense to honor LTC O'Dowd's contribution to their defense.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA'S BELOVED F.M. "BUBBA" FISHER

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of

Northwest Florida's beloved F.M. "Bubba" Fisher. A native son of Northwest Florida, Bubba's contributions to his community are unparalleled, and all of Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

Bubba was born and raised in Santa Rosa County, Florida. The youngest of nine children, he learned the value of hard work from his parents and siblings, while developing a lifelong love of the outdoors. After graduating from Milton High School in 1941, Bubba went to work in the family business until the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor, when he answered the call of duty, enlisting to serve in the U.S. Navy. During World War II, Bubba served with honor and distinction in the Pacific Theatre until the end of the war, when he returned home to Northwest Florida. Back home, Bubba took over the family business from his father and married his wife of nearly 70 years, Mildred.

Bubba's commitment to service and his dedication to his community were exemplified by his many years of public service, including two terms on the Milton City Council, two terms on the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners, four and a half terms as the Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser, and two terms as Chairman of the Florida Property Appraiser's Association. In addition to his public service and business success, Bubba was deeply committed to serving the Lord and his church community. A life-long member of First Baptist Church of Milton, Bubba taught Sunday School for 25 years, and he and Mildred raised their children in a strong faith-based home.

Throughout his life, Bubba worked tirelessly to serve his Nation and community, to carry on the family business, and to help raise a family. To some Bubba will be remembered as a veteran, who joined with so many in the Greatest Generation to defeat fascism; to others he will be remembered as a long-time public servant, who went above and beyond to help better the community that he loved; to his friends and family, he will be most fondly remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life and legacy of my friend, Bubba Fisher. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to his wife, Mildred; son, F.M. "Dusty"; grandchildren, Jason, Brandon, and Candice; great-grandchildren, Sarah, Ben, Grayson, Macey and Noah; and the entire Fisher family.

HONORING NAZARETH ACADEMY ON WINNING THEIR SECOND CONSECUTIVE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nazareth Academy and the Roadrunners football team. On November 26, the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners won their second consecutive Illinois High School Association football championship with an impressive 42-21 victory over Lincoln-Way West. I want to congratulate Coach Tim Racki, the

faculty and staff of Nazareth Academy, and the young men on this team whose dedication led to this achievement.

The Nazareth Academy varsity football team finished the season with a distinguished 12-2 record. In the championship game, Nazareth held an extraordinary 35-0 lead at halftime. Football is a demanding sport that requires teamwork, enthusiasm and perseverance. The Roadrunners demonstrated these qualities with true distinction.

But Nazareth is about more than football for the players. As Nazareth's principal Deborah Tracy said following the championship game, "More important than any one victory, Nazareth strives to develop more respectful, kind, faith-filled and service-oriented student-athletes." That was clear to me when I visited Nazareth after last year's championship.

This impressive victory was the sixth state championship win for Coach Tim Racki. Coach Racki's strong leadership and dedication propelled the Nazareth football team to success. The talents of Coach Racki have been evident throughout his career, and his commitment to sportsmanship is recognized throughout the state of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this truly impressive achievement made by the Nazareth Academy Roadrunners football team and to congratulate them on their state championship. Additionally, I wish each player continued success as he moves forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 657, I voted no but I intended to vote yes.

HONORING JOSHUA KEITH DUTCHER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Keith Dutcher. Joshua is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Joshua has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Joshua replaced the old wooden street signs with new metal signs in his hometown of Camden Point, Missouri. Thirty-four years prior, his father's Eagle Service Project was to build and install the wooden street signs that Joshua updated.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Keith Dutcher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING HARRY SERAYDARIAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harry Seraydarian, who is retiring this year from his position as the Executive Director of the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) in Corte Madera, California. Mr. Seraydarian has worked tirelessly throughout his long and productive career to protect watershed resources and natural spaces in our region, both with the NBWA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A lifelong advocate for the environment, Mr. Seraydarian spent most of his working years in government. In his decades of service with the EPA, Mr. Seraydarian distinguished himself as a Director of the Water Management Division, Director of Toxics & Waste Management, and an Associate Regional Administrator in the EPA's Region 9. In his final role, he served as an in-house "neutral," using his extensive problem solving skills and technical knowledge to resolve disputes.

If there's a challenge unsuited to Mr. Seraydarian, it may be retirement. Following a 33-year federal career, he retired in 2002, but quickly reentered the workforce in 2004 as the NBWA's Executive Director. Under his leadership, the NBWA has funded 36 projects the North Bay, totaling nearly one million dollars. The Association, a consortium of 16 regional and local public agencies in Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties, has encouraged collaboration across different levels of government, and, in no small part to Mr. Seraydarian's efforts, has enhanced stewardship efforts in the North Bay watershed.

Mr. Seraydarian's varied and significant talents, particularly in environmental mediation and conflict resolution, will not soon be forgotten. Our local environment is a better place today thanks to his technical abilities, managerial experience, and dedication to results-driven conservation.

Mr. Speaker, Harry Seraydarian's enduring commitment to improving our watersheds and environment is admirable and worthy of our recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to him on his retirement and our best wishes to him on his next adventure.

NORTH AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8) to modernize

energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the crude oil export amendment.

In the past 10 years, the United States has undergone an energy revolution.

But due to our success in places like Texas, North Dakota and Colorado the price of oil has fallen from \$100 per barrel to \$40.

Gasoline prices have fallen from almost \$4 per gallon to less than \$2.

All of this has benefitted our economy and the consumer.

I support crude oil exports.

But I want to protect our domestic manufacturing jobs, including refining.

We have the resource, we should use as much as possible here at home and sell what is left.

The crude oil export ban has been in place since 1975.

In the 1970s, the United States put the ban in place to protect our national interests.

That's more than 40 years of legislative history.

Before we do away with that history, we should make sure we have a policy that will make sense for the next 40 years and perhaps beyond.

Crude oil is a valuable national resource and the government should have some oversight as to where and when we send crude overseas.

I was hoping we could craft language that would create a process at the Bureau of Industry and Security, within the Department of Commerce, that would establish an authorization and reporting requirements for crude oil.

We should have some basic requirements at the Department of Commerce to oversee crude.

Unlike LNG, crude is a raw commodity and raw crude doesn't have value added.

If exporting crude is the right policy, then let's do it correctly.

Let's maximize the benefits for the United States.

Let's make sure U.S. crude doesn't end up in the hands of North Korea or any of our other foes.

The Department of Commerce has approved every application to export oil in the last five years.

Now, I agree that the Department could approve permits more efficiently but that's something we can legislate.

That's a "fix" I can support and believe would help our upstream producers.

Unfortunately, we were unable to find that compromise.

I do not want to oppose this language but without changes it is not in the best interest of our country.

The time to address exports is now but we cannot just open the tap and hope for the best.

I do not want the United States to become a resource nation.

I look forward to working on this issue again and hope that a reasonable, commonsense approach can be reached.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1177,
STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which seeks to replace the broken No Child Left Behind law. While I still have concerns with some provisions in this legislation, I believe this bill will serve our children better than the status quo. For example, the current waiver system has allowed states to ignore schools that are failing students. That is unacceptable and cannot continue.

I am concerned by the lack of federal oversight in implementing and enforcing many provisions of this bill. For example, states are left to determine how and when to intervene in schools that are failing children. We must guarantee that there is substantial federal role in ensuring states meet their obligations. Further, we must guarantee state and district implementation boards are inclusive, diverse, and adequately represent students of all needs and circumstances.

Despite shortcomings in the bill, I was pleased to see that states will now be required to collect and report data on incidences of bullying and harassment in school—an issue I have been working on for many years. It is a small, but powerful step in ensuring all children feel safe at school.

I voted for this bill because No Child Left Behind is simply not working. In four years, I look forward to revisiting reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to achieve an even more effective long-term policy.

IN HONOR OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMIGRANT WELCOME CENTER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I rise today to honor the Immigrant Welcome Center, whose tireless work over the past ten years has blessed countless Hoosiers in my hometown of Indianapolis.

The Immigrant Welcome Center was founded in 2005 by Mayor Bart Peterson and First Lady Amy Minick Peterson who sought to discover ways the City of Indianapolis could be more welcoming to its newest residents. Serving as a trusted liaison between newcomers and the community at large, the Immigrant Welcome Center provides a strong and positive voice for the foreign-born newcomers who represent 120 different nationalities and speak more than 90 languages. Today the organization continues to build connections between immigrants and the city's social, cultural and business communities, making Indianapolis a more diverse and innovative place for all residents.

The Immigrant Welcome Center is built on a model of empowerment that trains immigrants